



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cyber Storm Exercise Series is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to assess and strengthen cyber preparedness; examine incident response processes in response to ever-evolving threats, and enhance information sharing among Federal, state, international and private sector partners. The latest installment of the series, Cyber Storm IV (CS IV), is designed as a set of building block exercises, which began in fall 2011 and will conclude in 2012. This exercise design promotes more focused exercise activities, allowing participants to delve deeper into particular cyber issues. Members of the cyber incident response community are actively collaborating with DHS in the design and execution of these building block exercises. Observations and findings from exercises will inform National Level Exercise 2012 (NLE 12) planning activities, continue to enhance the cyber incident response community's capabilities, and support the Nation's ongoing resilience efforts.

### Cyber Storm IV Objectives

CS IV's objectives are designed to address cybersecurity preparedness and response capabilities through a series of building block exercise activities. These activities will further national efforts to strengthen cyber response while positioning DHS and its stakeholders for successful participation in NLE 12. CS IV's objectives are:

- Identify, exercise, and foster the improvement of processes, procedures, interactions, and information sharing mechanisms that exist, or should exist, under the National Cyber Incident Response Plan (NCIRP).
- Examine the role of DHS and its associated components during a global cyber event.
- Exercise coordination mechanisms, information sharing efforts, development of shared situational awareness, and decision-making procedures of the cybersecurity community (Federal, State, private-sector, international) during cyber events.
- Maintain awareness of other cyber exercise initiatives.

### Cyber Storm IV Design

Cyber Storm IV embraces a planning and execution concept that promotes more focused exercise activities. By developing a series of spiral, or building block, exercises, CS IV can efficiently address findings from CS III and from emerging cybersecurity issues within the community.

As in previous Cyber Storm exercises, a core group of key stakeholders representing the cybersecurity community support ongoing CS IV series planning. This group helps to identify exercise targets and potential participants, provides scenario guidance, and works to ensure the series remains nationally linked. DHS and the Planning Team host planning meetings, conduct focused collaborative meetings, and conduct briefings (as necessary) to ensure that these efforts remain centrally coordinated and that the CS IV community maintains awareness of activities and outcomes. Observations from these smaller exercises inform the broader stakeholder community, feed into NLE 12 activities, and support Post-Exercise Period documentation.

CS IV engagements serve as NLE 12 preparatory events which will better position participants of both exercises for effective participation.

#### **CS IV Quick Facts**

##### **CS IV Pillars**

- Cybersecurity Centers
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Critical Infrastructure Sectors
- Federal Government
- State and Local Government
- International Partners

##### **Building Block Exercises**

- NCIRP Exercise
- Cyber Center Directors' TTX
- Public Affairs TTX Series
- States Exercise Series
- CS&C Exercises
- Critical Infrastructure Exercises
- International Engagements

##### **Media Inquiries**

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##### **Additional Information**

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